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Turner "lack of preparation" (p. 324) and to speak of him as being "hopelessly lost in the fog" (p. 324). "Truth crushed to earth will rise again," and it can always be understood when clearly stated.

The frontispiece of this book is a reproduction of the "Battle of New Market" from a mural painting by B. West Clinedinst. It has a complete index and an appendix running all the way from A to K inclusive and presenting among other things of value and interest articles by Jos. R. Anderson on the graduates and *eleves* of the institute in the union army during the war, the institute's contribution to the Mexican war, alumni in the regular army and navy before the war, alumni in foreign armies before 1861, and alumni in foreign armies after 1865. It is on the whole a valuable and interesting contribution to the military annals of Virginia and the nation.

CHARLES H. AMBLER

History of Watauga county, North Carolina. With sketches of prominent families. By John Preston Arthur. (Richmond: Everett Waddey company, 1915. 364 p. \$1.50)

There is no field of local history more promising than that which has the county for its unit. Official records, private papers, and even traditions often illuminate the course of national and state as well as purely local development. Interest in the writing of county history should therefore be stimulated and every contribution encouraged.

Mr. Arthur deserves commendation for his work on Watauga county, a small unit in the extreme northwestern part of North Carolina. He has utilized published state sources, especially the laws of North Carolina, manuscript county records, private papers, works of description, and local traditions. The result is a mass of information, mainly of purely local interest, which has never hitherto been assembled. Much of what the author has to say will probably become the "last word." In two respects, however, his book is incomplete.

First of these is its content. There is no integration of the county in the general political and social history of the state of which it is a unit. Thus the reader is not told whether Watauga was whig or democratic in political struggles before the civil war, or whether it has been democratic or republican since. This matter affords opportunity for an interesting analysis, for the county was organized in 1849 just when the mountain section was attaining a larger rôle in political affairs in North Carolina, and election returns since reconstruction reveal some interesting changes in political sentiment. Again, there is no analysis of the growth of population decade by decade, nor any full treatment of the forces that make for social progress. For example the history of public

schools is almost entirely overlooked, only the names of school masters being given; yet schools were in operation in the county as early as 1851, and the public school movement is undoubtedly one of the important forces in the history of any community. More satisfactory is the information concerning the academies, but the list of institutions actually chartered is not complete. Space that might have been given to these and similar matters is given to things controversial. The career of Daniel Boone, for whom the county was named, is the subject of controversial discussion aimed at Mr. Archibald Henderson, whose investigations concerning Boone and Richard Henderson were approved in Mr. Arthur's previous book, *History of western North Carolina*. Equally interesting is the author's attitude toward the latest works describing the mountain section, Kephart's *Southern Highlanders* and Morley's *Carolina mountains*. The former is accepted with a grain of salt, the latter meets thorough approval. Yet the controversial pages yield some interesting results. The father of Daniel Boone's wife was Morgan Bryan, not Joseph (p. 30); the dates (p. 34) of Boone's birth and death, February 11, 1735 and September 26, 1820, differ from those given by Thwaites, November 2, 1734 and September 21, 1820; the Boone tree inscription near Jonesboro is discredited; and the resting place on the march to King's mountain is made the Little Doe, not the Great Doe, as Draper has it.

The second deficiency in the work is the insufficient exploitation of sources. Evidently the private laws have not been thoroughly examined, nor have the reports of the literary fund, the more important newspapers of the state in periods of political crises, or the manuscript correspondence of the governors at Raleigh been used. The federal pension lists might have given more definite information about revolutionary soldiers in the region and also those who fought for the union in the civil war. An incomplete list of county officers is given but there is no mention of the records of the court of pleas and quarter session, the official organ of the county before 1868, or the boards of county commissioners since reconstruction. Are the records of these bodies preserved, and if so, what light might they throw on political and social development?

The valuable part of Mr. Arthur's book is its information regarding old families, county legends, and matters primarily antiquarian. The view of the author is that of the *raconteur*, rather than of one who sees in a county the organic and institutional development of a people.

W. K. BOYD